



Arkansas Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Initiative

Early Care and Education Work Group – January 25, 2005

Members Present: Donna Alliston, Deborah Blackburn, July Clay, Geania Dickey, Thelma Jasper, Kathy MacKay, Karen Marshall, Vicki Matthews, Martha Reeder, Sandra Reifeiss, Vicki Shelby, Kathy Stegall, Dan Sullivan, Ratha Tracy, Jody Veit-Edrington, Cara Walloch, and Paula C. Watson.

Regrets: Jenny Adair, Terri Baker, Dorethea Davis, Jana Gifford, Joanna Grymes, Deniece Honeycutt, Sue Martin, and Victoria Stearns.

Agenda Item #1: Reapplication – AECCS Grant – Status of Goals

Discussion: Martha Reeder and Sandra Reifeiss met on January 20 and placed a conference call to Vicki Shelby to review the goals and make plans for the future efforts of the work group. As part of the re-application procedure for extending the planning grant, a report must be made on the status of each goal for all the work groups. Any day now we may receive an e-mail stating that the re-application is due within the week. We need all the information related to our plan on hand.

Martha, Sandra, and Vicki developed a process for reporting on the Early Care and Education goals by providing answers to three questions using Goal #3 as a draft and an example: (See attachment on Pages 5-7.)

- ? What is already in place to accomplish this goal?
- ? What additional activities can be done to help accomplish the desired outcome?
- ? What system is in place to evaluate the effectiveness of programs, initiatives, and activities (did we do what we said we would do)?

Martha then developed a form for each goal that contained the questions. For Goal #3, the answers provided from the meeting of Martha, Sandra, and Vicki were incorporated.

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Result: Those present were asked to brainstorm the three questions for Goal #3 as presented and include other information known to them that was not listed. Before leaving, members were asked to turn in the Goal #3 information. It will be compiled by Martha and sent out in the e-mail. Goal #3 is incomplete and needs the input of every member of the work group.

An e-mail will be sent out to all members of the group along with a form for each goal, including Goal #3, as homework. Member will be asked to respond with information related to the status of each goal, based on the questions.

The goal of the work group is to develop a plan, but we need to determine where we are in the process in order to produce a plan.

The goals were divided up with designated persons volunteering to take a leadership role to gather the information for various goals: Goal 1: Kathy and the DCCECE; Goal 2: Cara and Karen; Goal 4: Jody, Ratha, and Cara; Goal 5: Dee, Sandra, Judy, and Thelma. Everyone is asked to submit information related to the goals/questions.

TASKS: Martha will send out an e-mail containing a form for each goal (long-term outcomes), requesting completion of information. The forms are to be returned by February 11 to her office. The partially completed form for Goal #3 was included as an example as well as a request for additional information.

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Agenda Item #2: Updates from Other Work Group and Grants

Discussion: Martha prepared a short summary about what is happening in other groups. She also stated that members of the different work groups are encouraged to visit meetings of other work groups if there is an interest. There is a short synopsis of all the work groups on the following page.

We need to look at present resources and how to make the best of them. If no funding to incorporate all elements of a goal, we may need to seek funding in another arena. We may not have money after planning, but we need a plan in case opportunities arise to seek out funding when it become available.

As things change, our plans will change. It is not meant to be stagnant. It is the groundwork. Monitoring and adjusting are part of the plan.

Additional comments--

Strengthening Families

It is a technical assistance program. It does not involve money at this time, but offers technical support. There are five protective factors. Four deal with families; only one deals with the child. It is a quality issue. They are sending a technical assistance person to work with the steering committee. Check out the web site listed on the attached sheet.

We have some partners from DHDS/DCFS that are participating in the program. The leadership team for AECCS will be consolidated with the SFI leadership team in order to create a seamless purpose for the two.
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Medical Home

The Medical Home Work Group is working off a list of 12 priorities that came from Head Start to support the medical home for a child. The Catch grant is for \$10,000. If received, it will be used to fund a part of their plan.

Family Support

The tool kit has been deferred by Family Support until after the Strengthening Families meeting in March. The tool kit has a parent piece and a provider piece. This would focus more on the physical needs (nutrition, social-emotional health, etc.) as opposed to the learning domain. We are hoping to provide a tool to also support parent involvement and the medical home.

Arkansas Access was explained further. (see Tasks below)

Martha mentioned a website that has some of the same features called, The Family Support Learning Community from greater Kansas City. Web site:
www.familysupportamerica.org.

Parent Education

This group is working on trying to get study circles delivered.

The entire syllabus for the Family Development Credential is on their web site. (see sheet on the following page). The training reaches across all lines. You are encouraged to view this web site.

It was suggested that we may want to look at schools as to how they package materials for parents.

TASKS: Members of Early Care and Education were asked to do the following:

- ? go to the AR Access web site (www.araccess.org) to determine if it is user-friendly from your perspective and the perspective of your clients. Make suggestions for altering and improving to Susan Underwood (see sheet on the following page).
- ? They are also asked to take a look at the listed agencies/organizations and help determine what groups are missing. Your help is needed to identify entities that need to be on the site. If you know of an organization, you can contact Susan Underwood or go to the organization and inform them of the site.

Work Group Updates

Strengthening Families State Pilot Project – Arkansas was chosen as one of seven states that will participate in a state network – working to infuse the concepts of this research-based project across states. It is focused on training child care providers to recognize risk factors in the children that they serve, and intervene with families before situations escalate. All printed materials about the initiative can be found at the following link: http://www.cssp.org/doris_duke/resources.html. You can examine the proposed state plan for *Strengthening Families* to see what the possibilities may be for reinforcing goals of several AECCS work groups.

Early Care & Ed meeting with Eva Carter and Judy Collins from NCCIC – These two women from the National Child Care Information Center shared with the Early Care & Ed work group, along with representation from other work group on December 17. You can examine the minutes from that meeting to see a synopsis of what they shared – essentially that tiered strategies are being put into place across the United States (<http://www.arkansas.gov/childcare/12-17-04%20Minutes.pdf>). What we need to realize is that Arkansas already has a tiered system of sorts. We have two levels at this time: licensing compliance and quality approval. The tiered system that is being developed will have the advantage of offering a path for moving from compliance to graduated degrees of quality. Contact for this group: sreifeiss@arkedu.k12.ar.us and vshelby@paragould.k12.ar.us

Medical Homes Work Group – This group is working to condense a list of twelve priorities that were introduced to them by Monica Miller (a Head Start health coordinator for Van Buren) for ways that child care can support the concept of the medical home. They are working to condense these into some hard-hitting and concise recommendations for the tiered strategies. An opportunity presented itself for a CATCH grant from the AAP to possibly fund a training module that can reinforce these priorities. Dr. Gil Buchanan agreed to sponsor this grant that, if funded will produce a training module that can then be plugged in to existing trainings. Contact for this group: rnugent@healthylarkansas.com

Family Support Work Group – This group is working on several projects. They are working on the tool kit that we discussed in previous meetings. If you would like more information on this, see the state plan for *SFI*. They are also considering establishing a web site that will link to Arkansas Access (<http://www.araccess.org/>). They have printed out a version of all the agencies that are listed at the current time. They have requested that other groups help them to identify missing pieces, so that they can contact these entities and request that they register their information. They have also requested that you log on to the site, and look at it from the perspective of your clients. Use the search engine, and make some observations about how user-friendly it is. If you have any suggestions for ways that the drop down menus could be added to, etc. Susan Underwood feels that the service provider (ARMIS) is very open to suggestions for making the site work better. Contact for this group: sunderwood@arkedu.k12.ar.us and jgorton@healthyarkansas.com

Parent Education Work Group – This group has several projects also that they are currently involved in. Study Circles were supposed to be delivered last fall, but circumstances prevented that. They are in the process of trying to help this process along. Also, in connection with Act 603, they are considering the development of a parenting credential that would be offered to persons that work with families/children. We are in touch with the program in Missouri that offers a Family Development Credential. If you would like more information about this, take a look at their web site: <http://www.umkc.edu/mofdc/> Contact for this group: cthonto@jtlshop.jonesnet.org and gilkeybj@archildrens.org

Social Emotional Work Group – The primary project this group is currently working on is to study screening and assessment information that they may choose to recommend as a statewide universal social-emotional assessment. Several of the assessments currently being studied may be viewed at the website: <http://www.dbpeds.org/> Members of this group are also serving on the sub-group looking at a tool kit that targets social-emotional, and physical needs of children and families. Contact for this group: cohenbrucem@uams.edu and bokonypattia@uams.edu

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Agenda Item #3: Curriculum Review Team Report – Donna Alliston

Discussion: The Curriculum Review Team has met two times to review curricula from publishers to identify comprehensive and supplemental curricula that meets the team's definition of "curriculum." (The term, "curriculum" refers to the philosophy, goals, content, and instructional practices that guide learning. An effective curriculum is based on scientific research principles of child development and learning and is; thoughtfully planned, challenging and engaging, developmentally appropriate, built on prior learning experiences, culturally and linguistically responsive, comprehensive, and promotes positive outcomes.)

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The team wants to expand what has been listed already in the ABC Regulations. In order for a program to purchase a curriculum with state funds, it must be on the approved list.

The checklist for the Review Criteria was distributed.

Agenda Item #4: Next Meeting Date and Adjournment

Discussion: It was decided that the next meeting date will be for a longer period of time to flush the status of the goals out. It was also decided to set two meeting dates, one in February and one in March.

Meeting Site(s) to be determined.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Results: Meeting Dates–

**February 18, 2005, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Lunch to be Provided**

**March 18, 2005, 12:30 – 3:30 P.M.
Brown Bag Lunch**

TASKS: Martha and Paula to locate meeting sites and send out notices of the meeting.

Note: The February 18 and March 18 meeting will be held at the Thompson Library.

Goal #3: Developmentally appropriate early childhood practices are implemented

	EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS ARE KNOWLEDGEABLE OF QUALITY EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION	Diversified multi-media education
What is already in place to accomplish this goal?	<p>? MANY TRAININGS IN THE STATE ARE TRACKED THROUGH THE AECPPDS</p> <p>? THE DHS/DCECE PUBLISHES A NEWSLETTER QUARTERLY WHERE INFORMATION ABOUT TRAININGS IS SHARED. THIS INFORMATION IS ALSO AVAILABLE ON THE DCECE WEBSITE</p> <p>? ARKANSAS EARLY CHILDHOOD FRAMEWORKS FORMS RESEARCH BASE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF TRAINING, ASSESSMENT AND TRACKING OF CHILD OUTCOMES</p> <p>? ARKANSAS ESC WORKS AT HTTP://WWW.ESCWEB.NET/AR_ESC LISTS PROF. DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES</p>	<p>? Currently, a curriculum review of the task of identifying and reviewing early childhood programs. This (see attached) that identifies the definition of quality early childhood has emerged from the School Ready Arkansas Frameworks for Early Childhood Education and the Arkansas Better Chance for Schools</p>

DRAFT – GOAL #3 – EARLY CARE & EDUCATION WORK GROUP - AECCS

<p>What additional activities can be done to help accomplish the desired outcome?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? EFFICIENTLY UTILIZE THE CHILD CARE RESOURCE AND REFERRAL NETWORKS, EVALUATING ITS EFFECTIVENESS AND FORMALIZING A SYSTEM OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN PROVIDERS AND CCR&R ? 2-YEAR HIGHER ED. ACCREDITATION FOR PURPOSES OF ARTICULATION – (PROJECT DIRECTED BY D. ALLISTON) ? B-5 LICENSURE – BEING STUDIED BY HIGHER ED. WORK GROUP, WHO IS RECOMMENDING AN INTERIM STUDY OF THE MATTER IN LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ? INCREASE NUMBER OF TEACHERS WITH APPROPRIATE CREDENTIALS ? FOLLOW THE PROGRESS OF DEVELOPMENT OF PARENT EDUCATOR CREDENTIAL (LOOKING AT THE FAMILY DEVELOPMENT CREDENTIAL OUT OF CORNELL UNIV.) BEING STUDIED BY PARENT EDUCATION WORK GROUP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? Continue and expand curriculum ? Implementation of recommended by ongoing professional development mentoring ? Identify ways that the use of curriculum impacts child outcomes
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<p>What system is in place to evaluate the effectiveness of programs, initiatives and activities (did we do what we said we would do)?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? EVALUATION OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM ? TRACK PREPARATION, CAPACITY EXPANSION OF THE WORKFORCE 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? ECERS/ITERS QA visit ? Work Sampling ? Kindergarten Readiness Assessment type of program (determination of use data appropriately – useful to label, track or stigmatize young children) ? ABC Longitudinal Study
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